

Middlebury Oct. 23 1844

My Dear Louisa,

Before this time I suppose you are either rejoicing in the prospect of your dear Brothers' recovery or are mourning their loss - I hope the former - In that case you will I know be very happy yet not so much so but that a little remembrance from me who claim an almost filial affection from you will be welcome. Yet should your heart have been doomed to feel the agony of a separation from those you love then I know you will feel the want of consolation - yes more than created beings can bestow. If it is so may the God of consolation himself fill your desolated heart and may his blessing attend the efforts of your friends to console you. You must consider my dear girl that you have a part to perform in case your Brothers no longer live that requires the exercise of fortitude. This is to console your father. - His loss would be much greater than yours - You are ~~yet~~ young and probably will ^{hereafter} have connections more tender than any you have yet known on which your hope and dependance will be placed. Such connections were your brothers to your father - If he has lost them no future worldly hope can fill their place - Yet Louisa it is for you to ~~make~~

make him feel if he has lost them he has not lost all - Make yourself useful to him in every way you can - and endeavour to beguile him of his sorrows by ~~the~~ interesting conversations, and endearing ~~attos~~, but do not suffer your own melancholly countenance if you can possibly avoid it to be a perpetual memento ^{to him} of his bereavement. —

You perceive I write upon the supposition that your brothers are no more. I ~~still~~ ^{hope} however they are still living and are better. If it should be so it will make the blessing of their existence doubly dear to you, to realize what you would have ^{otherwise} felt. —

Lucy Pearson has been called home since you left us to attend the funeral of her only brother - He died suddenly as we supposed in a fit - Poor Lucy was most ~~much~~ unhappy - Our melancholly parting with her brought forcibly to our recollection the one we had so recently had with you - Indeed Livia the girl's snips you much yet I think not so much as I do - I often look to your place at the table and in the school room with a sigh. They are filled but your place in my heart my dear girl you shall still retain whether

present or absent. — Your letter to Sally
Davis I have sent — Julia Pierpont and Susan
Shinner have arrived from Manchester. The
former however does but stay to make a visit.
Three day scholars have entered my school
since you left here — Mrs Schuyler and
Mrs Burnham are both dead — Mrs. Lucia
Foote is dangerously sick. —

I sometimes indulge the hope that you
will return and spend the winter here — but
I have found anticipation so often the har-
binger of disappointment that I have learn-
ed to indulge it with caution. —
The girls mourn your absence more than Lane.
She sends much love to you — So no doubt would
the other girls if they knew I was writing. —
I write to me often
I suppose you will have written before you
receive this.

Affectionately your friend E. W. Williams

Julia Cambell is in town. —

Miss Lovisa Foote

